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# 'Pancake Roundup' gives stressed students a break

On Thursday, University Housing served a late-night breakfast to students gearing up for Finals Week

BY SAMANTHA BATES  
FREELANCE REPORTER

Some University Housing administrators traded their desks and business attire for a grill and straw cowboy hats and treated students to a late-night breakfast Thursday.

Gathered around the Fire 'n Spice Grill in the Hamilton Complex, students stressed from Dead Week studying took a break from 11 p.m. to 1 a.m. to feast on plate-sized pancakes during the "Pancake Roundup."

This is the fourth time Housing staff has put on the pancake feed, which takes place on Thursday of Dead Week each term.

"Students love it," said Debbie Meyer, the cash operations general manager for University Housing. "I expect a couple hundred of them."

"It's just a social break," said Sandy Schoonover, director of Residence Life. "There's so many milling around and eating and laughing."

Before the grill was fired up, six students were already standing in line.

Roughly 10 of the housing professional staff members wore white aprons and wielded large metal spatulas while flipping

plate-sized pancakes.

"After about 10 minutes they really get a rhythm down," Meyer said.

Drew Morgan, the Carson Hall complex director, caught a pancake as it flipped through the air over the grill before handing it to a student.

"It's a lot of fun," he said. "It's a great way to connect with students and end the term on a positive note."

Students purchased two plate-sized pancakes for three points on their meal plans. They were offered a variety of toppings, including whipped cream, strawberries, blackberries, bananas and syrup.

Lindsay Walsh, 18, a freshman pre-journalism major, chose bananas because of a song by Jack Johnson called "Banana Pancakes." "Every girl wants to be serenaded by Jack Johnson," she said. "And be made pancakes by him."

"Breakfast at night, what more could you want?" asked Brittany Speer, 19, a freshman pre-business administration major.

She said she hadn't started studying yet, but expected to do more during Finals Week.

"I only have two finals," she said. "It's going to be a pretty good finals week considering it's my first term."

Hayley Dixon, 19, a sophomore theater arts major, said it was her fourth time attending a pancake feed.

"They taste better every time," she said.

The pancake feeds started in fall 2004, after Heather Dumas-Dyer, the Bean Complex director, proposed the idea to other complex directors.

"I thought it would be a good opportunity for the professional staff to spend time with the students," she said. "I enjoy the fun atmosphere. It's something social and positive before finals."

The room was filled with the hum of students talking and eating. At one point, Dustin O. Donnell, 21, an English major, led the entire room in an impromptu sing-along of "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer." He stood on a chair wearing his black peacoat and waved his arms like an orchestra conductor. The whole room joined in, complete with little quips such as, "like a light bulb," to describe Rudolph's shiny nose.

"We decided that the atmosphere was such that we could get everyone to sing," he said.

Many of the students said they would come again next term.

"I think it's cool," said Ryan Spiker, 17, a freshman. "It's like a social hour at the strangest hour."

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## Westmoreland: Groups to survey tenants

Continued from page 1A

592 tenants who may be displaced by the sale amount to "pretty much nothing."

The University has formed three task groups to help the 87 leaseholders who are international students, to help students financially in their search for housing and to address the students who have children at the Westmoreland Child Care Center and will need a new daycare provider if the apartments are sold.

University President Dave Frohnmayer told the University Senate at its Nov. 30 meeting that the groups will survey all Westmoreland tenants beginning in January to determine their housing and financial needs.

The property has been valued at between \$15 million and \$18 million, though officials say that appraisal was conservative. Frohnmayer has said a portion of the proceeds will go to helping tenants finance their moves if necessary.

The University is working carefully to draft a survey that is thorough and asks all appropriate questions regarding students' financial and housing needs so more questioning is not needed, Interim Vice President for Student Affairs and Director of University Housing Mike Eyster said.

"What we don't want to do is waste students' time," Eyster said.

Eyster emphasized that the survey does not mean each tenant will be showered with individual attention.

"I wouldn't want to leave people

with the impression that there's going to be like a case manager assigned to each individual student, because we're not staffed to do that," Eyster said.

Frohnmayer said during the senate meeting that the details of a support plan for tenants cannot be set until it's determined who the buyer of the 21-acre property is. Numerous organizations have shown interest in the apartments, namely the Metropolitan Affordable Housing Corporation and St. Vincent de Paul Society of Lane County, Inc.

Representatives from those organizations have said that if they do purchase the property they'd like to maintain it as low-rent housing, but only a few of the units could be occupied by students because Internal Revenue Service tax credit rules prevent full-time students from using tax credit housing.

"It all depends on what kind of funding they use to make the purchase," Eyster said.

The Westmoreland Tenants Council submitted a public records request to the University's office of the General Counsel, asking for, among other things, all documents relating to the financial state of Westmoreland and all documents that mention the decision to sell the property.

Randy Geller, director of policy and legal affairs for the University, responded to the request by saying the cost of producing such a large amount of documents could be sub-

stantial. He encouraged the council to narrow the request to decrease the search and preparation time and thus the cost of fulfilling the request.

The University Senate unanimously passed a motion at its Nov. 30 meeting calling for the University to waive the costs.

Geller could not be reached for comment.

University spokeswoman Pauline Austin said in an e-mail that Geller will not comment because his written response to the tenants council details the reasons for the possibly substantial cost of fulfilling the records request.

Contact the news editor at [mcuniff@dailyemerald.com](mailto:mcuniff@dailyemerald.com)

### MEETING DETAILS

**Who:** Save Westmoreland Coalition  
**When:** Tuesday at 7 p.m.  
**Where:** EMU Fir Room  
**What:** The group is hosting a public forum to discuss the University's hopes to sell Westmoreland Apartments, and to outline members' reasons for opposing the sale. Eugene Mayor Kitty Piercy, City Manager Dennis Taylor and state representatives Bob Ackerman and Terry Beyer will attend.  
Invited guests include all local elected officials as well as all University administrators.

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